

REMARKS

In the present Office Action Claims 1-19 and 29-35 were examined. No claims were allowed, Claims 1, 4-19 and 29-35 were rejected, and Claims 2 and 3 were objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim. The Office Action makes the rejection of claims 1, 4-19 and 29-35 final.

By this Amendment, Claims 2-5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 17, 29 and 34 are proposed to be amended, Claim 1 is proposed to be cancelled without prejudice and no claims are proposed to be added. Accordingly, Claims 2-19 and 29-35 are presented in this Amendment and Reply and, as now written, are believed to be in a condition for immediate allowance.

Reconsideration and allowance of all of the now pending claims in view of the proposed amendments and remarks to follow is respectfully requested.

Prior Art Rejections:

In the Office Action the Examiner maintains and now makes final the rejections of Claims 1, 4-14, 17-19, 29-31, 34 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Neumann (U.S. Patent No. 3,597,188) and Claims 15, 16, 32 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Neumann, and further in view of Arvidsson (U.S. Patent No. 6,027,544).

Without addressing the patentability of these claims as previously presented in view of the cited documents, without admitting relevancy (if any) of the cited documents and merely to streamline prosecution of the pending application, Applicants propose to cancel independent Claim 1 and to amended Claims 2 and 3 so that these claims are now written in independent form. The proposed amendment to Claims 2 and 3 removes the object noted by the Examiner and, thus, these claims are in a form for immediate allowance. Applicants also propose to amend Claims 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12 and 14 such that these claims now depend from independent Claim 2. Additionally, Applicants propose to amend independent Claims 17, 29 and 34 to incorporate a limitation previously presented in Claim 2. It is submitted that no new matter is presented and that, as now written, Claims 2-19 and 29-35 are in condition for allowance.

Applicants have made a diligent and sincere effort to place this application in condition for immediate allowance and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. To expedite prosecution of this application to allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney to discuss any issues relating to this application.

Respectfully submitted,
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